



Use Week of:

Easter • Session 2

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26–28

STORY POINT: God is always with us.

KEY PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 31:8a

CHRIST CONNECTION: We are not afraid because Jesus is alive.

Bible Story for Toddlers

The night before He died, Jesus ate a special meal with His friends. Then Jesus and His friends went to a garden to pray. Jesus prayed, “Father, I will do Your plan.” People came to take Jesus to jail, and His friends ran away. People tried to say Jesus is not God’s Son, but that is not true. People put Jesus on the cross, and He died to rescue us. They put Jesus in a tomb with a stone in front of it. On the third day, two of Jesus’ friends named Mary went to the tomb. An angel told them good news: “Do not be afraid! Jesus is alive!” The women hurried to tell the others, and they saw Jesus! Jesus said, “Tell My friends to meet Me in Galilee.” Jesus was alive, and Jesus is alive today!

Babies Gospel Gems

- * People put Jesus on a cross, and He died.
- * God made Jesus alive again.
- * God sent Jesus to rescue us.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Matthew 26. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY: People put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again! We are not afraid because Jesus is alive. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.** [*Pray.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

“God is with us everywhere, everywhere, everywhere,
God is with us everywhere. He will never leave us!”

SAY: God sent Jesus to rescue us from our wrong choices. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.** We are not afraid because Jesus is alive!

Make cross art

Provide painting smocks or T-shirts for babies. Cut sponges into cross shapes. Use clothespins for babies to hold the sponges. Help the babies dip the sponges in washable paint and then press it onto paper. Keep wipes and towels handy to clean up spills.

SAY: People put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US,** and we are not afraid because Jesus is alive!

Read about Jesus

Before class, print the “Jesus Is Alive Book” printable and assemble the book. Read the book to babies in class, pointing to Jesus in each picture. Remind children that Jesus never did anything wrong.

SAY: God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying on the cross. God made Jesus alive again. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!** God sent Jesus to rescue us.

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to use throughout the week. Repeat gospel gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

TODDLER Activities

Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Matthew 26. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Roll away the stone

Invite toddlers to sit with you in a circle, facing inward. Roll a ball to one child and cheer as she rolls it back. Continue around the circle. Briefly retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY: People put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again. The women who went to Jesus' tomb found the stone was rolled away! We are not afraid because Jesus is alive. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.**

Sing songs about Jesus

Provide rhythm instruments or musical toys for toddlers to play as you sing familiar songs about Jesus, such as "Jesus Loves Me," "God Is So Good," and "Because He Lives." Briefly retell the story.

SAY: Jesus never did anything wrong, but people put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again! God sent Jesus to rescue us. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.**

Look at flowers

Post an allergy alert. Gather real or artificial flowers and magnifying glasses. Guide toddlers to examine the parts of the flowers in a magnifying glass. Talk about how Jesus went to a garden to pray the night before He died.

SAY: Jesus never did anything wrong, but people put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again! **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.**

Where is Jesus?

Print the "Jesus" printable. Hide the picture in the room or tape it to the wall. Tell children to look for Jesus. Repeat as time allows.

SAY: God made Jesus alive again. Right now, Jesus is alive in heaven. We are not afraid because Jesus is alive. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.**

BONUS Teaching Hour

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CHRIST CONNECTION: We are not afraid because Jesus is alive.

Transition activity: Make a play dough tomb

Demonstrate to toddlers how to roll play dough into a ball shape, and then use the pinch pot method to make a cave. As toddlers work, briefly review the Bible story.

SAY: Jesus always obeyed God, but people put Jesus on a cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again. God sent Jesus to rescue us from our wrong choices. We are not afraid because Jesus is alive! **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.**

Tell the good news

One at a time, invite preschoolers to come to you. Whisper in each toddler's ear "Jesus is alive." Invite him to turn to his friends and shout the good news. Make sure every toddler gets a chance to say the good news. Review the story.

SAY: God made Jesus alive again. God sent Jesus to rescue us from our wrong choices. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!**

Look at living things

Provide books or images of living things (animals, people, plants) and non-living things (cars, machines, toys). Help toddlers compare the items. Talk about the Bible story as toddlers look at the images.

SAY: People put Jesus on the cross, and He died. God made Jesus alive again. God sent Jesus to rescue us from our wrong choices. **GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US!**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, story point, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.